

REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment is submitted pursuant to a telephone conversation between counsel and Examiner Nguyen on or about July 9, 2003. In the conversation, it was noted that the International Preliminary Examination Report had apparently issued prior to the time when this application was filed. Accordingly, WIPO has now forwarded to the USPTO the amended claims as attached to the International Preliminary Examination Report, and the latter do not match with the claims as submitted with this application, or with the preliminary amendment filed March 27, 2002.

This will confirm that the Applicants wish to have this application examined on the basis of the claims which were attached to the International Preliminary Examination Report, with modifications to accommodate U.S. practice. Accordingly, the foregoing amendment has cancelled Claims 1 through 16 and entered new Claims 17 through 28, which correspond to the claims contained in the amended sheets attached to the International Preliminary Examination Report, omitting non-statutory Claims 12, 13, 15 and 16. Henceforth, examination of this application should proceed on the basis of the claims as set forth in the above second preliminary amendment.

If there are any questions regarding this second preliminary amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #2101/50765).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gary R. Edwards", is written over a horizontal line.

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